

### REMARKS

#### Certified Copy of Priority Document

A certified copy of the priority document was filed with the application on July 2, 2001. During a telephone conference with the Examiner on November 4, 2003, the Examiner confirmed that the certified copy was in the PTO's file.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge in writing that the PTO has received the certified copy of the priority document.

#### Information Disclosure Statement

An information disclosure statement (IDS) was filed on November 16, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the form 1449 that accompanied the IDS to indicate the Examiner's consideration of the references cited therein.

#### Pending Claims

Applicant thanks the Examiner for recognizing that claims 6, 7 and 12 include allowable subject matter.

Claims 6 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form to include the features of the claim(s) from which they depended. Accordingly those claims should be in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from either claim 6 or claim 12 and should, therefore, be in condition for allowance as well.

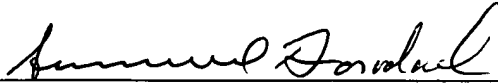
Applicant : Hiroyuki Makita et al.  
Serial No. : 09/897,324  
Filed : July 2, 2001  
Page : 6 of 6

Attorney's Docket No.: 10973-051001 / K43-  
134458M/SMI

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/13/2005

  
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